

# **AIR FORCE ASSOCIATION AEROSPACE EDUCATION GRANTS**

**Next Suspense Date: July 20th, 2000**

The Aerospace Education Foundation (AEF), established in 1956 by the Air Force Association (AFA), helps provide educational opportunities for America's youth. These opportunities were initiated to help ensure that future generations of Americans:

- Appreciate the important role of aviation and space in America's future
- Have the technical knowledge necessary to understand aerospace issues
- Have the educational background required to pursue aerospace careers

To accomplish their educational goals, the AEF communicates directly with the American public about the importance of maintaining a sound aerospace infrastructure and the importance of maintaining a strong Air Force to ensure national security. Another important part of their educational efforts is to support the educational objectives of the Air Force and CAP. As part of that support, the AEF recognizes outstanding contributions in the field of aerospace education. To support CAP's aerospace education programs, the AEF provides aerospace education grants for Civil Air Patrol units. Since 1996, the AEF has provided over \$45,000 to CAP units to help fund their aerospace education programs. For the remainder of this year, \$7,000 is still available.

The Civil Air Patrol aerospace education grant program is funded by the Aerospace Education Foundation and managed by Civil Air Patrol Headquarters. This is a recent change to previous program management procedures. In the past, the AEF managed all aspects of the program and all applications were sent directly to the Aerospace Education Foundation. But now, through an agreement between CAP and the AEF, applications will be sent directly to HQ CAP. The Aerospace Education Division at CAP Headquarters will manage the selection process. A panel of judges at HQ CAP will review the applications, rank order each proposal, and then select the grant winners. Another important change to

program management procedures is that in the future, AEF aerospace education grants for CAP units will be made twice each year---once in the winter and once in the summer. For the winter program, half of AEF grant monies will be awarded to units participating in the Civil Air Patrol Aerospace Education Excellence Award Program. For the summer program, the remaining half will be used to support any CAP unit involved in aerospace education activities.

**The Requirements and Selection Criteria for the Aerospace Education Foundation Grants are as follows:**

- Units are eligible to receive one grant every other year.
- Grants cannot exceed \$250.00 per request.
- Grants must be used for aerospace education-related items/activities such as books, videotapes, aerospace-oriented field trips, and aerospace education days.
- Grants may NOT be used for uniforms, honor guard, or color guard activities nor may they be used for individual member flying instruction.
- Grant recipients must file a follow-up report with HQ CAP/ETA on how the AEF grant contributed to their AE program.

Only those CAP units participating in the Aerospace Education Excellence Award Program (AEEAP) may apply for the winter competition. The application deadline for those units is December 31. Grants will be processed and checks issued to all selected units by January 31. Any CAP unit may participate in the summer competition (including those AEEAP units that did not receive a grant in the winter competition). The application deadline for the summer competition is June 30th (extended to July 20th for the year 2000 only). Grants will be processed and checks issued to all selected units by July 31. Please remember that units can only receive a grant once every other year.

An application form can be downloaded from the HQ CAP web site or requested from HQ CAP/ETA. Completed applications should be faxed to HQ CAP/ETA at (334) 953-4235 or mailed to HQ CAP/ETA, 105 South Hansell St, Maxwell AFB, AL 36112-6332. For more information, please contact Civil Air Patrol Headquarters, Aerospace Education and Training Directorate at 334-953-5095 or send an E-mail to **bspink@capnhq.gov**.

